

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 CU-02 SAJ-01

/083 W

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R 301600Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1702

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH LABOR WRAP UP ON EVE OF MAY DAY

REF: A) MADRID 2683 B) MADRID 1103 C) MADRID 1420 D) MADRID 2858

BEGIN SUMMARY: LABOR SCENE IS MARKED BY (A) RENEWED LABOR STRIFE, PRIMARILY AT RENAULT PLANT IN VALLADOLID; (B) ATTENTION ON MAY DAY ACTIVITIES; AND (C) INTEREST FOCUSED ON EXPECTED BUT AS YET STILL-UNANNOUNCED SSO ELECTORAL CALENDAR AND YET-TO-BE APPROVED DRAFT DECREE LAW ON STRIKES.
END SUMMARY

1. PAST WEEK HAS WITNESSED REACTIVATION MAJOR STRIKE AT 11,000 WORKER RENAULT AUTOMOBILE PLANT AT VALLADOLID, SCENE OF EARLIER NASTY STRIKES IN OCTOBER AND JANUARY. STRIKE, WHICH SPARKED BY MANAGEMENT CHANGE IN WORK SHIFT HOURS, LED TO PROMPT FIRING OF 37 STRIKE RINGLEADERS AND TO RETALIATORY LOCKOUT ON APRIL 23, UPON WHICH 2,000 STRIKING WORKERS
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OCCUPIED LARGE PORTION OF PLANT. OCCUPATION ENDED APRIL 24

WITH FORCEABLE EVICGION BY POLICE, FOLLOWED BY BRIEF BATTLE OF POLICEWITH WORKERS AND OTHER PROTESTORS IN WHICH SEVERAL PERSONS INJURED. OTHER VIOLENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING WORKERS AND STUDENTS TOOK PLACE IN SCATTERED VALLADOLID SUBURBS APRIL 24-26, AND IN SOLIDARITY SEVERAL VALLADOLID PRIESTS REFUSED SAY MASS APRIL 27. ADDING TO TENSE VALLADOLID CLIMATE IS LINGERING BITTERNESS OVER GOVT'S FEBRUARY CLOSURE OF UNIV OF VALLADOLID FOR DURATION CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR (REF C). VALLADOLID STRIKE SITUATION CURRENTLY AT IMPASSE.

2. SOME OTHR LONG-STANDING LABOR DISPUTES ARE ALSO ONCE AGAIN BACK IN NEWS. FOR EXAMPLE, ACTORS AND ACTESSES DISPUTE, WHICH IN FEBRUARY LEAD TO AN UNPRECEDENTED STRIKE WHICH CLOSED MADRID'S 27 THEATERS, HAS AGAIN AROUSED PUBLIC INTEREST SINCE STILL-UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACTS LED 1,000 ACTORS TO ATEMPT AN UNAUTHORIZED ASSEMBLY AT HQS OF SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO) ON APRIL 22, WHICH ASSEMBLY WAS BROKEN UP BY POLICE.

3. ALTHOUGH LABOR MINISTER REPORTEDLY SENT NEW TEXT OF LONG-PROMISED DRAFT DECREE-LAW GRANTING A MODIFIED RIGHT TO STRIKE TO APRIL 25 CABINET MEETING FOR APPROVAL, MATTER WAS REPORTEDLY NOT DISCUSSED. THIS WAS DUE TO CABINET'S PREOCCUPATION WITH MEASURES TO DEAL WITH BASQUE TERRORISM (REF D). MATTER OF DECREE-LAW MAY BE DEALT WITH AT NEXT CABINET MEETING MAY 2.

4. ANOTHER KEY LABOR ISSUE CONTINUES BE ELECTORAL CALENDAR FOR SSO ELECTIONS WHICH GOVT HAD PROMISED FOR THIS SPRING. NEITHER SSO NOR GOVT HAS YET ANNOUNCED CONVOCAION OF SSO ELECTIONS, AND THIS RAISED DOUBTS ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AS PROMISED. IT STILL EXPECTED, HOWEVER, IMPORTANT SSO PLANT LEVEL ELECTIONS WILL BE CONVOKED FOR LATE MAY. SSO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS SCHEDULED SPECIAL MEETING MAY 5 AND ELECTORAL CALENDAR EXPECTED BE ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING MEETING.

5. INTEREST ALSO CENTERING ON MAY 1, AND ON DAYS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING AND FOLLOWING, WHICH HAVE OFTEN BEEN USED TO FOMENT STRIKES AND PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS. MAY DAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGITATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN READILY CONTAINED BY SUBSTANTIAL PRESENCE OF POLICE, AND NO EXCEPTION EXPECTED THIS YEAR. ALTHOUGH MAJOR CLANDESTINE LABOR AND POLITICAL GROUPS REPORTEDLY ARE NOT SEEKING THIS YEAR FOMENT DISORDERS, SMALL ULTRA-LEFTIST EXTREMIST AND STUDENT GROUPS, WHO CAPABILITY IS ADMITTEDLY LIMITED, REPORTEDLY DO HOPE PROVOKE DISTURBANCES, AS MAOIST FRAP DID ON MAY 1,1973 WHEN ITS MILITANTS KILLED POLICEMAN. A COMMEMORATIVE ACT OF PEACEFUL NATURE, WITH SOME

POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTION, IS SCHEDULED BY SOCIALIST PSOE AND UGT FOR MAY 1, CEREMONY AT MADRID CEMETARY TOMB OF PABLO IGLESIAS, FOUNDER IN 1879 OF PSOE. ALTHOUGH PSOE/UGT IN PREVIOUS YEARS HAVE ALWAYS SENT SMALL DELEGATION EACH MAY 1 TO PAY HOMAGE AT IGLESIAS' TOMB, THIS YEAR THEY PLAN MASSIVE BUT PEACEFUL CEREMONY AT HIS GRAVE AND ARE PLANNING ON BRINGING IN BUS LOADS OF PSOE/UGT MILITANTS FROM ALL OVER SPAIN.

6. COMMENT: KEY TO OVERALL LABOR SITUATION IS EXPECTED CONVOCAION OF SSO ELECTIONS. IF, AS EXPECTED, PLANT LEVEL SSO ELECTIONS CONVOKED SOON, WORKERS WILL BE PREOCCUPIED WITH ELECTIONS. IF, HOWEVER, SSO ELECTIONS ARE POSTPONED, THEN STRIKES AND LABOR AGITATION COULD INTENSIFY PRIOR TO SUMMER HOLIDAYS. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, LABOR STRIKES, MAY DAY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID02964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750152-0323
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975044/aaaaaday.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 2683, 75 MADRID 1103, 75 MADRID 1420, 75 MADRID 2858
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH LABOR WRAP UP ON EVE OF MAY DAY
TAGS: ELAB, SP, RENAULT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006